



Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Environmental Health
Division of Spill Prevention and Response

ADEC Threatened Water Body Finding

December 27, 2004

This finding is made for the grounding of the *Selendang Ayu* and applies to state-waters in the spill impact zone between Cape Kovrizhka (53 degrees, 50.67 minutes N lat.; 167 degrees, 09 minutes W long.) and Spray Cape (53 degrees, 36.83 minutes N lat.; 167 degrees, 09.33 minutes W long.) - Unalaska, Island - including Makushin and Skan Bay. The following information has been considered in assessing the potential threat of oil contamination to these waters.

- The presence of oil on water and on shorelines has been documented in these areas by observations from overflights and response vessels.
- The presence of oil in the water column or on the bottom is unknown.
- It is not possible to stabilize the vessel or fuel tanks of the *Selendang Ayu* to prevent further releases.
- There is a continuing threat of additional releases from the casualty that may occur unpredictably and in unknown volumes due to storms or further structural failure or for other unanticipated reasons.
- The threat of additional releases will not be abated until lightering operations have been successfully concluded on January 31 as currently planned.
- Lightering operations may be a source of a release.
- Response operations including oil tracking, oil containment and recovery, wildlife rescue, shoreline surveys and shoreline cleanup will be ongoing in these areas when conditions allow. On going response operations may interfere with fishing vessels or preferred fishing areas or inadvertently introduce contamination by the nature of the activity.
- Re-oiling from contaminated shorelines is a potential source of contamination.
- Increased vessel traffic may result in hull contamination from outside the spill impact zone that would cause tracking to fishing areas in the spill impact zone. Similarly hull contamination may occur within the spill impact zone and be tracked to uncontaminated areas that may jeopardize other fishing operations outside the spill impact zone.

FINDING

This information supports a department "finding" pursuant to 18AAC 34.600 that the oil spill threatens to contaminate the body of water identified as the spill impact zone.